(12) UK Patent Application (19) GB (11) 2 245 616 (13) A

(43) Date of A publication 08.01.1992

(21) Application No 9014898.2

(22) Date of filing 05.07.1990

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(51) INT CL[5]
E04H 17/00

(52) UK CL (Edition K)
E1D DCH2 DF168 D1074 D2036 D532 D541 D545 D549

(56) Documents cited
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(58) Field of search
UK CL (Edition K) E1D DCH DF168, E1G GLK GLM
INT CL[5] E01F, E04B

(54) Block

(57) A moulded portable support block having fence post-receiving recesses (14, 15) extending from the upper surface, and a peripheral wall 12 projecting outwardly at opposed ends to provide carrying handles (22, 23), which is inclined inwardly from the lower surface to facilitate removal from the mould during manufacture, but includes two pairs of opposed flat faces (21) which are normal to the lower surface (11) so that the blocks may stand on edge for stacking. The upper surface (10) is recessed centrally to enable the block to be carried as close as possible to the body.

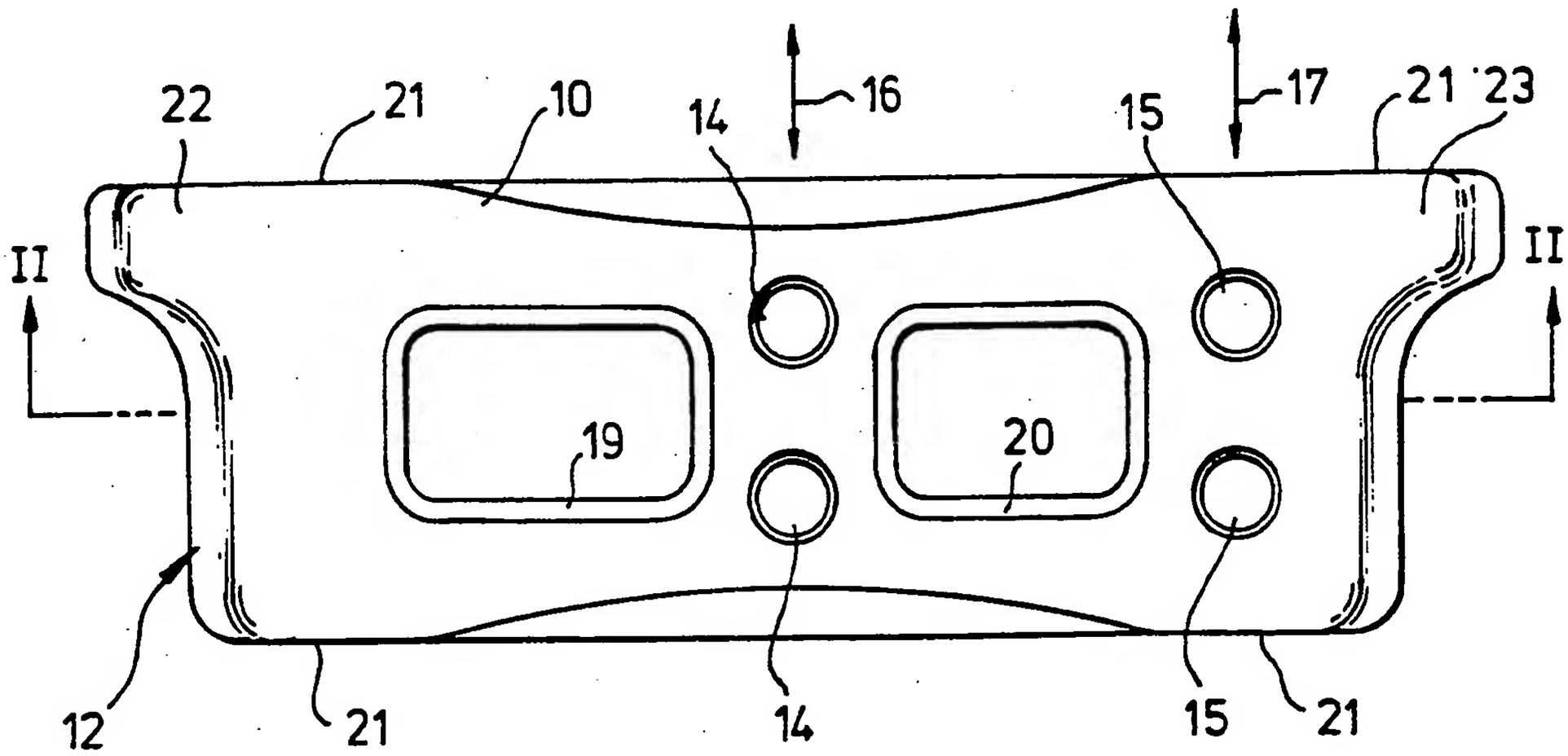

FIG.1

At least one drawing originally filed was informal and the print reproduced here is taken from a later filed formal copy.

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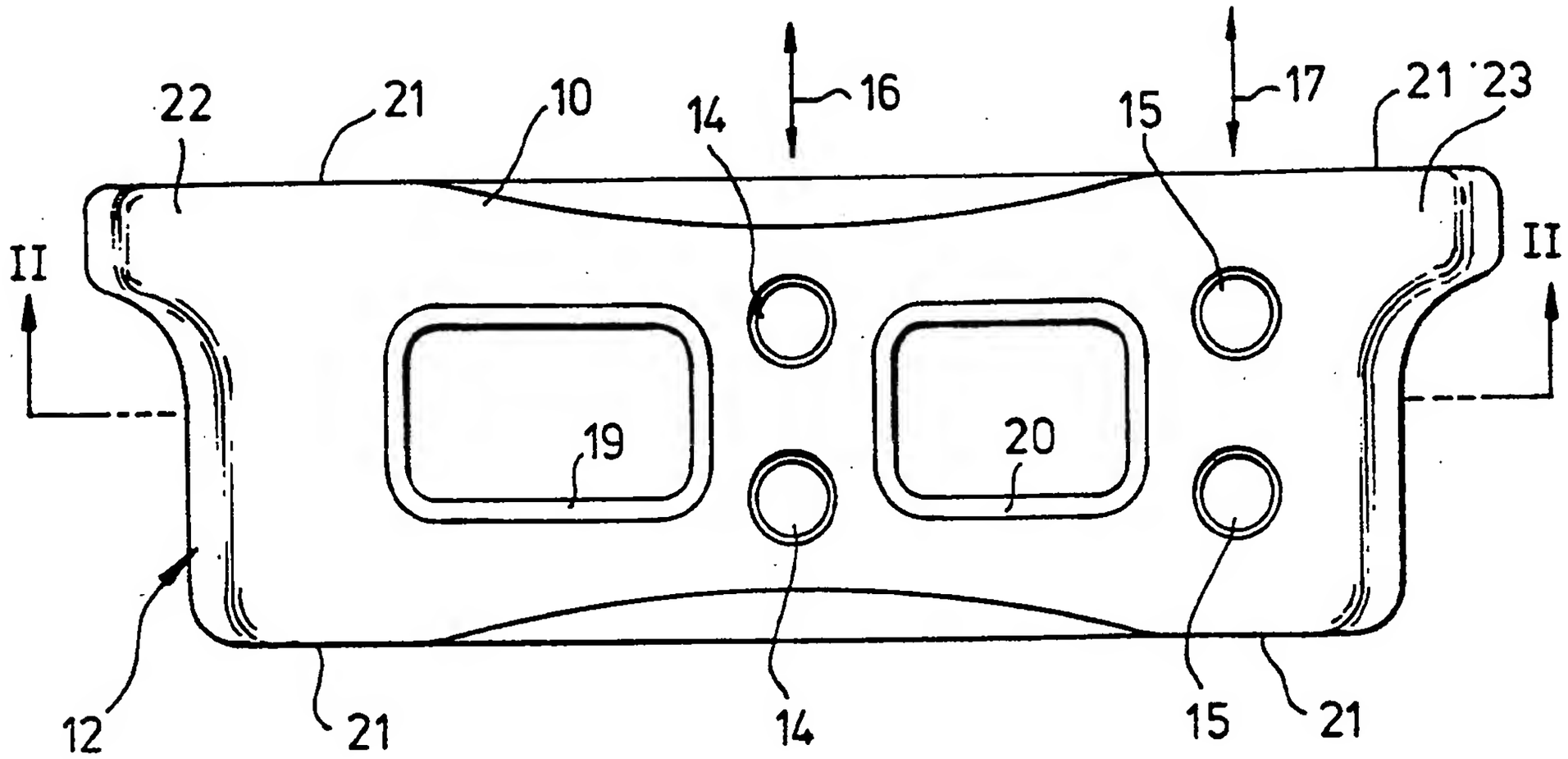
22
21
10
14
16
15
17
21
23
II
II
19
20
12
21
14
15
21

FIG.1

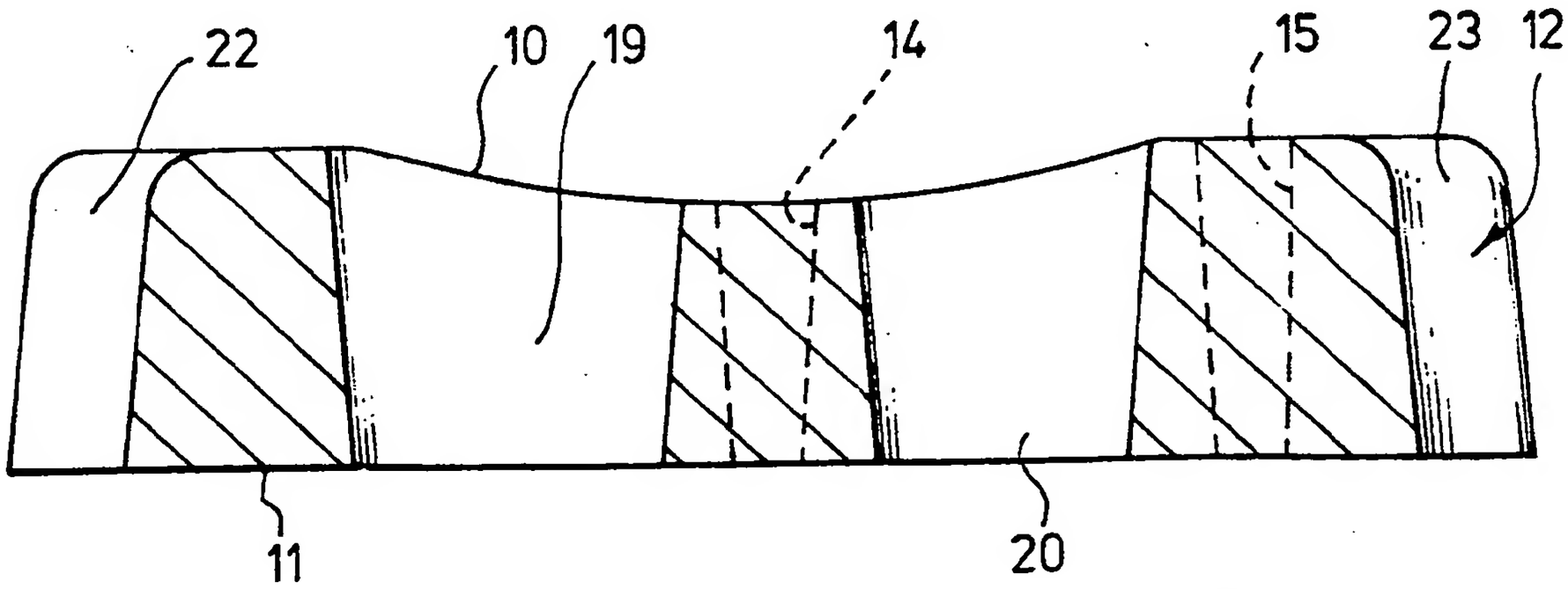
22
10
19
14
15
23
12
11
20

FIG.2

A SUPPORT BLOCK

THIS INVENTION concerns portable support blocks usually of concrete or other material of like density which are used to support spaced upright posts for example in temporary fencing or barriers.

Such blocks are produced usually by casting in open-top moulds which, may be overturned to eject the block. Consequently, the mould walls are slightly tapered outwardly to permit easy removal.

The blocks are usually formed with several apertures for receiving the upright posts, and may be recessed or externally shaped to minimise the amount of concrete used commensurate with the finished block being of sufficient weight to provide adequate stability in use.

Owing to the considerable weight of such blocks which must be moved by hand to their required locations, it is preferable to provide some means whereby the block may be easily lifted. Conventionally this takes the form of hand-holes, i.e. tapered recesses extending horizontally into the peripheral walls of the block, usually at two opposed ends

thereof. This presents moulding problems requiring, for example, the use of additional mould pieces which must be removed from the block after casting, often leaving sharp edges around the hand-hole recesses.

Another disadvantage of such blocks being necessarily moulded with a slightly inclined peripheral wall for easy removal from the mould, is that when the blocks are turned on edge for stacking on pallets, the edges are not at right angles to the upper and lower faces, so making the block very difficult to stack.

An object of the present invention is to provide a support block wherein the aforementioned disadvantages of conventional blocks are substantially avoided.

According to the present invention there is provided a moulded portable support block of concrete or other material of like density having upper and lower surfaces and a peripheral wall with one or more post-receiving recesses extending downwardly into the block from the upper surface; characterised by the provision of means outstanding from the peripheral wall, which may serve as carrying handles, and which will permit the block, during manufacture, to be removed from a mould in a single operation; and in that

said peripheral wall contains no recessed hand- holes.

Preferably, the peripheral wall has two opposed flat faces which are mutually parallel and normal to said lower surface whereby the block may stand for stacking upon one of said flat faces with said lower surface disposed vertically.

An embodiment of the invention will now be described, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:-

Fig. 1 is a plan view of a support block made in accordance with the invention;

Fig. 2 is a vertical section taken along line II-II of Fig. 1.

The block comprises a mass of concrete, generally rectangular in plan, having upper and lower surfaces 10 and 11 respectively and a peripheral wall generally indicated at 12 extending around the block. Two pairs 14 and 15 of through holes are provided which extend throughout the entire height of the block between the upper and lower surfaces for receiving upright posts for supporting fencing or the like extending transversely of the block usually in the direction indicated by arrows 16 and 17. The option of

locating the upright posts centrally or to one end of the block is provided for the convenience of positioning the fence.

Two large, generally square apertures 19 and 20 are left to minimise the quantity of concrete utilised, commensurate with the required weight of the block.

Throughout most of its peripheral extent, wall 12 is inclined at some 5° to 10° inwardly from the lower surface 11. This is to enable the block to be removed easily from the mould after casting. The apertures 19 and 20 are also moulded with a similar taper.

However the peripheral wall 12 includes two pairs of opposed flat faces 21 which are mutually parallel and normal to the lower surface 11. The block may be stood upon edge to rest upon these flat faces so that the upper and lower surfaces shall be vertical for stacking. In moulding terms the flat faces 21 are referred to as having "zero draw" as opposed to the inclined parts of the peripheral wall which have positive draw of some 5° to 10°. Since no part of the wall has negative draw the entire block may be removed at once from the mould.

Referring to Fig. 1 it will be seen that at the two opposed ends of the block the peripheral wall extends outwardly in two regions 22 and 23 so that a pair of carrying handles are provided when the block is turned on edge. In these regions however the peripheral wall is of uniform shape and contains no recesses.

When the block is standing on edge as if viewed in elevation in Fig. 1 the carrying handles 22 and 23 are uppermost and therefore readily grasped by the user with the minimum of bending. Furthermore, it will be apparent from Fig. 2 that a central region of the upper surface 10 of the block is curved inwardly so that the block may be carried on edge as close as possible to the body thereby further increasing the comfort and reducing the burden.

When a number of such blocks are stacked upon a pallet the spaces 19 and 20 between blocks are aligned enabling securing ropes to be passed through the spaces.

The overall length of the block including the handle regions is in the order of 760mm whilst the width is some 235mm across. By extending the base of the block in the regions 22 and 23 it is possible to

minimise the length of the remainder of the block thus improving the stability-to-weight ratio thereof.

CLAIMS

1. A moulded portable support block of concrete or other material of like density having upper and lower surfaces and a peripheral wall with one or more post-receiving recesses extending downwardly into or through the block from the upper surface; characterised in that the peripheral wall includes opposed portions which project outwardly to serve as carrying handles; and in that no part of the peripheral wall is shaped to have negative draw, thus enabling the block during manufacture to be removed from a mould in a single operation.

2. A support block according to Claim 1, wherein the peripheral wall has two opposed flat faces which are mutually parallel and normal to said lower surface whereby the block may stand for stacking upon one of said flat faces with said lower surface disposed vertically.

3. A support block according to Claim 2, wherein the peripheral wall has two pairs of opposed flat faces which are mutually parallel and normal to said lower surfaces.

4. A support block according to Claim 1, including two pairs of post-receiving recesses

extending throughout the entire height of the block between the upper and lower surfaces thereof.

5. A support block according to any preceding claim, wherein a substantial part of the length of the peripheral wall is inclined inwardly from said lower surface 11 to enable the block to be removed easily after moulding.

6. A support block according to any preceding claim, in which no part of the peripheral wall has a negative draw.

7. A support block according to any preceding claim, wherein a central region of the upper surface of the block is recessed such that the block may be carried on edge as close as possible to the body.

8. A support block according to any preceding claim, wherein the overall length thereof including the outwardly projecting carrying handles is in the order of 760mm whilst the width is some 235mm across, the carrying handles being located at opposed ends of the major axis of the block.

9. A moulded portable support block substantially as hereinbefore described, with reference

to and as illustrated in the accompanying drawings.